

IT'S SPRING — COUNTY AIRPORTS ON DISPLAY!

PLANE NEWS

Calendar of Events

Avocado Festival & Open House

April 14
Fallbrook Airpark
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Wings Over Gillespie

May 3-5
Gillespie Field
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Collings Foundation B-17, B-24

May 5-8
Palomar Airport
3 – 6 p.m. Sunday
9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Mon
day, Tuesday
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Wednesday

Ramona Air Fair

May 31-June 2
Ramona Airport
5 – 10 p.m. Friday
7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday,
Sunday

B-17, B-24 Fly to Palomar

There's an unmistakable rumble overhead. World War II veterans recognize it instantly – younger generations catch on quickly. It is a sound of freedom.

That reverberation comes from the mighty engines of a B-24 Liberator and B-17 Flying Fortress, aircraft that played key roles in defeating America's enemies in World War II.

Collings Foundation, a non-profit educational organization, is set to display its fully-restored aircraft at the Western Flight hangar at Palomar Airport May 5-8.

B-24s have a local tie. Hundreds of the heavy bombers were built by Consolidated Aircraft (later Convair) in San Diego.

Airplanes Highlight Avocado Festival at Fallbrook Airpark

There's more to this year's Fallbrook Avocado Festival than green fruit. There are airplanes big and small, aviation displays and activities for all ages

This year's open house at Fallbrook Airpark comes on Sunday, April 14



Wings Over Gillespie Features 60+ Vintage Planes

"Salute to American Air Power" is the theme of this year's Wings Over Gillespie World War II Static Air Show scheduled for May 3 – 5 at Gillespie Field. Presented by Air Group One, the San Diego Wing of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF), the theme of the 2002 air show will be dedicated to the history of the Douglas A-26 Invader.

Thousands of people are expected to attend the three-day event dedicated to sharing the history of the planes and people of World War II. The 8th annual show features more than 60 World War II and vintage planes including the Douglas A-26 Invader, North American P-82 and P-51, Chance Vought F-44, Grumman Hellcat and Bearcat, the Curtis P-40 Flying Tiger and the Northrop Flying Wing.

Aviation personalities scheduled to appear include the Flying Aces, Flying Tigers, Navajo Code Talkers, and Tuskegee Airmen. In addition to touring World War II aircraft and meeting veterans, rides will be available in a variety of vintage planes, a flight simulator ride will be available for people of all ages, parachute jumping shows will

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from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Shuttle buses will run between the facility and other festival events in downtown Fallbrook.

"We'll have some interesting things to see this year," said Assistant Manager Willie Vasquez. "There will be antique and contemporary airplanes and helicopters, remote control aircraft and ultralight aircraft."

Palomar RC Flyers will perform three radio-controlled air shows during the event. Also scheduled for display is the Mercy Air medical evacuation helicopter and historic airplanes. The 99's will operate a snack booth with sodas, bottled water, cookies and other treats. The Commemorative Air Force will have aviation related souvenirs for sale as well.

For more information on the open house, contact Vasquez at (760) 723-8395.



Ramona Air Fair To Run 3 Days

Buoyed by the success of last year's Ramona Air Fair two-day event, organizers decided to expand the event to three days in 2002. This year's fair runs

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Destination San Diego

By Jessica Eslinger, Staff Writer

Outside the Cruiseair Aviation hangar in Ramona, four small planes are lined up, waiting for repair. Inside, three are getting picked at, pulled apart and rebuilt by a workforce that's recognized by many as the best Bonanza maintenance facility on the west coast.

Richard and Dottie Kuck, founders and owners of Cruiseair Aviation Inc., have been in the aviation business for 42 years. They started out small, with a plane rental facility in Orange County. Now, more than 250 pilots and aviation lovers visit Ramona each year for Cruiseair's plane repair, parts, flight lessons, aircraft sales and plane rentals.

"Ninety percent of the plane maintenance we do is on Bonanzas," said Dottie, "and the guys we have working for us are great."

Alongside Richard and Dottie work seven skilled aircraft technicians and half a dozen freelance flight instructors. The large amount of business Cruiseair brings in has kept everyone pretty busy, so much so, that they're working on expanding their existing facilities. A new hangar and office area, adjacent to their current location, is scheduled for completion by the end of this year.

"There's really no slow time, which is good," said the Kucks. "But we can't wait for construction to begin on our new building." Cruiseair began in 1961 after Richard received his airframe and power plant mechanic license from the Northrop Aeronautical Institute in Inglewood, California. He enjoyed working with planes and Dottie had a knack for paperwork, so the two started a plane rental and repair shop at the

Cruisin' with the Kucks



Richard and Dottie Kuck

Cruiseair has been in business since 1961, at Ramona since 1980.

John Wayne Airport in Orange County.

In 1975, they decided to move to the San Diego coastline and sub-leased an aircraft maintenance facility at McClellan-Palomar Airport. The Kucks remained there until 1980 when an even greater opportunity arose—a ten-acre lot with hangar, available for lease at the Ramona Airport. After some thought, they seized the opportunity and made Ramona their new home.

Cruiseair is now a landmark because of its knowledgeable staff, exceptional service and stature in the aviation community. The business has been successful enough to win several awards including a certificate of recognition by the World Beechcraft Society and an award from the American Bonanza Society. Richard and Dottie are just happy to have found success in what they enjoy.

Cruiseair Aviation, Inc. is located at 2428 Montecito Road, just south of the Ramona Airport runway. For more information about Cruiseair Aviation, Inc. or the Kucks, call 760-789-8020.

Business Opportunities At Borrego

Fixed Base Operator –

County of San Diego Airports Division is soliciting proposals from parties who are interested in developing and operating a fixed base operation on a site of approximately 5 acres at Borrego Valley Airport, Borrego Springs, California. To receive a Request for Proposal (RFP) packet, please submit your request along with \$25.00 to: County of San Diego, Gillespie Field, 1960 Joe Crosson Dr., El Cajon, CA 92020-1236, Attn: Bill Svensson, Senior Real Property Agent, telephone (619) 956-4803.

Aircraft Storage Hangars –

County of San Diego Airports Division is soliciting proposals from parties who are interested in leasing a site of approximately .27 acres improved with four (4) existing aircraft storage hangars. Also, there are three (3) additional sites of approximately .16, .62 and 1.06 acres available for developing additional aircraft storage hangars at Borrego Valley Airport, Borrego Springs, California. To receive a Request for Proposal (RFP) packet, please submit your request along with \$25.00 to County of San Diego, Gillespie Field, 1960 Joe Crosson Dr., El Cajon, CA 92020-1236, Attn: Bill Svensson, Senior Real Property Agent, telephone (619) 956-4803.

Compass Points

Spring is Time to Visit County Airports

As you can see in several of the articles in this issue of Plane News, this is a very busy time of year at our County Airports. We'll celebrate the 8th annual Wings Over Gillespie at Gillespie Field and we anticipate another highly attended and successful event. Ramona Airport will also hold the 7th annual Ramona Air Fair. This event has really grown in recent years becoming the most attended annual event in Ramona. We'll also host an open house at Fallbrook Airpark as part of Fallbrook's annual Avocado Festival. And, once again, the Collings Foundation brings its heavy bombers to Palomar Airport.

Although I really enjoy seeing the wide variety of aircraft and other aviation "stuff" and the opportunity to talk to event participants, the thing I like most about these events is the opportunity they provide members of surrounding communities to visit our airports and meet members of the aviation community. Many of these folks have no previous interaction with pilots and other aviation enthusiasts. It provides them the opportunity to discuss what we do and share information.

I've been involved with these events at County Airports for several years and can't remember when I didn't get the chance to discuss aviation with someone from the community. Most years, someone asks me about noise abatement procedures and pilot efforts to fly friendly. These are great opportunities to educate neighbors concerning our efforts in this regard and build bonds with the community. We also frequently discuss the significant economic impact our airports, including the thousands of jobs resulting from the presence of the airports.

So, I encourage you to enjoy these events, bring your families and please take the time to talk aviation with others

Rick Jenkins



Air Fair

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Friday to Sunday, May 31 through June 2.

Festivities begin Friday from 5 – 10 p.m. with a dance, formation flights, aircraft displays and demonstrations and hot air balloon launch with nightglow effects and fireworks. Admission is \$5 per adult or \$8 per couple. Kids are free.

New to the schedule this year is a Saturday night dance with a live band. Admission and other events will be the same as Friday, but without fireworks.

Daytime events on Saturday and Sunday are free to everyone and include firefighting demonstrations; military fly-bys; static displays of military, antique, home-built and experimental aircraft; fire attack aircraft demonstrations; and skydiving exhibitions. Community groups will sell food and beverages. The Santa Maria Masonic Lodge will once again hold its scholarship breakfast to raise money for children of firefighters killed in the line of duty.

Air Fair sponsors include County Airports, County Television Network, California Department of Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, Ramona Chamber of Commerce, North County Times and Viejas Casino.

Wings

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take place throughout the weekend and there will be a variety of panel discussions and live entertainment.

The price for admission will be \$10. Military in uniform and children under 10 will be admitted free of charge. All proceeds will benefit The World War II Flying Museum at Gillespie Field, as well as the "Gillespie Field Youth In Aviation" scholarship fund. Entrance to the show will be at the Gillespie Field Administration Building, located at 1960 Joe Crosson Drive. Gates will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call (619) 448-4505 or (888) 215-7000, or visit www.WWIIFLYINGMUSEUM.org.

FIREFIIGHTERS FLY FROM FALLBROOK

With all the aerial fire fighting equipment around, Fallbrook Airpark looked more like Ramona Airport (home of San Diego County's only air attack base) in February.

A half-dozen fire fighting and law enforcement helicopters used the facility during the Gavilan fire north of town. The blaze tore through 5,700 acres and destroyed 45 homes.

Crews from San Diego, Riverside, Orange, San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties used the Airpark.



Glowing hot air balloon at 2001 Ramona Air Fair,

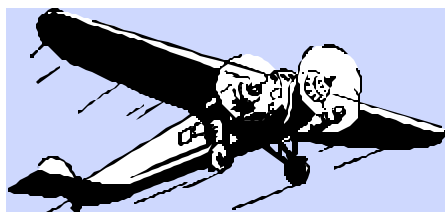
REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON AIR TRANSPORTATION

Regional workshops on air transportation are coming to a location near you in May. These workshops are aimed at soliciting community input on the Air Transportation Action Program (ATAP). The ATAP will evaluate potential solutions and develop a plan of action to meet the growing air transportation needs of the San Diego region.

Dates and locations for the workshops are being finalized at this time and will be advertised through various media outlets. If you are interested in more information about ATAP or the upcoming workshops, please contact Mike Hix at SANDAG at (619) 595-5377 or at mhi@sandag.org. You may also visit www.sandag.org/ATAP for more information.

Tail Section Header

Taking Wing: *Bon voyage to three County Airports staffers who retired in March—[Paula Darland](#) (Real Property), [Sylvia Gustafson](#) (Administration), [Ernie Cardoza](#) and [Steve Smith](#) (Finance)...* **New faces/** **New places:** [Russ Couchman](#) stepped up to managing noise issues at Palomar Airport... [Tim Caulder](#) brings a great sense of humor to Real Property... **Construction** on a \$73,000 waterline extension at [Fallbrook Airpark](#) started March 26. Installation of a fire hydrant is included. That allows for better fire protection and business improvements at the facility.



Gillespie AWOS Coming Soon

Installation of the new AWOS (automated weather observation station) at Gillespie Field is scheduled for completion in April.

The facility was installed by Qualimetrics and Kajun Services. Once the system is assembled, testing begins. Upon successful completion of the tests, the system will be certified by the Federal Aviation Administration.